



Department of Law
State of Georgia

REC'D MAY 13 2005

THURBERT E. BAKER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

40 CAPITOL SQUARE SW
ATLANTA GA 30334-1300

Writer's Director Dial:
(404) 657-3979
Fax (404) 651-6341

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Anita Martin, Executive Director
Georgia Board of Dentistry

FROM: Reagan W. Dean
Assistant Attorney General

RE: Botox

The Board has requested advice concerning whether the giving of botox injections by dentists is within the scope of practice of dentistry. Attached to the request for advice was an advertisement from a seminar that offered instructions to dentists and physicians in the use of botox injections for the management or elimination of head, neck, and facial pain. This memorandum of advice supplements an advice memorandum dated January 20, 2005, previously provided to the Board.

This advice follows additional research on the Board's question whether the use of botox injections for the management or elimination of head, neck, and facial pain is within the scope of practice of dentistry. Note that this memorandum does not address whether the use of botox injections is an appropriate treatment for pain management or elimination as such would involve medical or dental judgment nor whether there has been FDA approval for such use of botox.

The Dental Practice Act (O.C.G.A. Section 43-11-1, et. seq.) contains a definition of dentistry (O.C.G.A. Section 43-11-1(5)). The definition of dentistry means, in part, the evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment, or any combination thereof, with surgical or nonsurgical procedures, of diseases, disorders, or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area, or the adjacent and associated structures, or any combination thereof, provided by a dentist within his or her education, training, and experience, in accordance with the ethics of the profession and applicable law.

Thus, the response to the inquiry is that it requires a case by case examination. Injections for purposes of pain management or pain elimination must be within the body areas and for the purposes stated in the statute for practice by a dentist within his or her education, training and experience, in accordance with the ethics of the profession. Such injections must meet the requirements contained in the definition of dentistry to fall within the scope of practice of dentistry.

RWD/deb
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